

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has maintained the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph (written description) as the sole remaining rejection. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants' representative initiated a telephone interview with Examiner Perrin. Applicants and Applicants' representative would like to thank Examiner Perrin for his courtesy in conducting the interview and for his assistance in resolving issues. As a result of the interview, it was tentatively agreed that the present application would be in condition for allowance pending reconsideration and an updated prior art search.

Specifically, even assuming *arguendo* that "applicant's original disclosure is *textually* silent with respect to" as alleged by the Examiner, one exemplary embodiment of the "protrusions extending only upwardly therefrom" claim language is clearly shown, for example, in Figure 2 of Applicants' drawings in which the exemplary stirring blade 2 is shown having unnumbered protrusions extending only upwardly therefrom. "An applicant shows possession of the claimed invention by describing the claimed invention with all of its limitations using ... *figures*," *Lockwood v. American Airlines, Inc.*, 41 USPQ2d 1961, 1966 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Further, it is respectfully requested that withdrawn claims 11-18 and 23-36 be rejoined as being dependent, directly or indirectly, on allowable claims 1 and/or 2. In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention would readily recognize the ability to combine the respective features of the present invention in combination. For example, the combination of a drain mechanism in both the cover (claims 1 and 2; one exemplary embodiment shown in, for example, Figure 12 of Applicants' drawings) and lower portion of the washing tank (e.g., claim 14; one exemplary embodiment shown in, for

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example, Figure 14) is one possible combination. Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

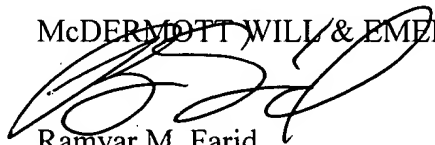
**CONCLUSION**

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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